

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02

SY-05 /072 W

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R 130915Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 777

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: FARMERS DEMONSTRATE IN BRAGA

REF: LISBON 175, OPORTO 009

1. AN ESTIMATED 50,000 FARMERS GATHERED JAN 11 IN BRAGA RALLY ORGANIZED BY FARMERS CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGAL. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, RALLY WAS WELL-ORGANIZED WITH REPRESENTATION FROM EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY. MOOD WAS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-AGRARIAN REFORM AND ANTI-LOPES CARDOSO, AGRICULTURE MINISTER, WHO WAS SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM BY ALMOST EVERY SPEAKER. THOUGH RALLY WAS ANNOUNCED AS NON-POLITICAL, THERE WAS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF PARTICIPATION BY SUPPORTERS OF POPULAR DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTIES (PPD AND CDS). ALSO IN CIRCULATION WERE REPRINTS OF A LETTER BY EX-PRESIDENT SPINOLA DESCRIBING ALREADY-PUBLICIZED AIMS OF DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF PORTUGAL (MDLP). THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVEN UNTIL FEB 2 TO RESPOND TO LENGTHY MOTION DEMANDING COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING OF AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED EXCEPT FOR ROUGHING UP SUPPOSED CUBAN WHO TURNED OUT TO BE FRENCH REPORTER.

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2. COMMENT: "ROUTINE" VISIT BY NORTHERN MILITARY COMMANDER
BG VELOSO TO BRAGA JAN 9 APPARENTLY CONTRIBUTED TO KEEPING
LID ON VIOLENT INTENTIONS OF SOME DEMONSTRATORS. IT WAS
WIDELY RUMORED THAT BRAGA HEADQUARTERS OF FELLOW TRAVELING
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) WOULD BE ATTACKED. BEHIND
MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION AT RALLY WAS
THREAT OF "FOOD BLOCKADE" OF LISBON THOUGH, ACCORDING TO
WELL-INFORMED SOURCE, SOME NORTHERN FOODSTUFF SUPPLIERS
HAVE ALREADY BEGUN REFUSING TO SELL TO LISBON AREA
PURCHASERS. FARMERS CONFEDERATION IS NOW READY TO TACKLE
PROBLEM AT ITS ROOTS WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT ANTI-AGRAR-
IAN REFORM RALLY SCHEDULED FOR JAN 14 IN THE ALENTEJO.
PENNER

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Message Attributes

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